



October 2005

Trestle View Park Opens

Turning a blighted urban scene into a community resource



Photo courtesy Charlie Tracy

Franklin, NH (September 27, 2005) Several hundred supporters, neighbors, river and trail enthusiasts, and dignitaries turned out for the opening celebration of Trestle View Park along the Winnepesaukee River. This park was a collaborative effort with the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the City of Franklin, the Winnepesaukee River Trail Association (WRTA), and others. The park serves as a beautiful downtown green space, a trailhead for the Winnepesaukee River Trail, and a new, safe kayak take-out at the end of a whitewater run. The land for the park was donated by the Grevior family and LWCF funds provided for the park's development, including the placement of a huge old mill wheel to show the historical connection between Franklin's development and the river.

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program assisted the WRTA with the creation of Trestle View Park. RTCA helped with the initial plans for the park and helped secure grant funds to build the kayak take-out. The park was a collaborative effort with many groups, including the City, the local bank, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local health clinic. For more information, please contact Lelia Mellen, New Hampshire projects director, at Lelia_Mellen@nps.gov or 802- 457- 3368.

Reclaiming Washington Bridge Park

Providing river access and land connections

New York City, NY (September 6, 2005) An undeveloped, virtually unused, and completely overgrown 3.4 acre public park will be reclaimed through the joint efforts of the City and State of New York and the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. Despite its exceptional location on the Harlem River, the park currently features no public use amenities nor public access to the river for recreational and educational purposes. With \$350,000 in LWCF assistance and equal shares matched by the City and state, Washington Bridge Park will be transformed into an attractive waterfront park with spectacular views of the Harlem River and the Highbridge Park bluffs. This park will also provide a clear connection to the existing waterfront esplanade within the 25- acre Roberto Clemente State Park. A reclaimed and rejuvenated Washington Bridge Park will create a contiguous stretch of revitalized riverfront parkland in the South Bronx, a densely populated area greatly in need of open space and recreational opportunities. For more information, please contact Jean Sokolowski, NY project manager, Northeast Region at jean_sokolowski@nps.gov or (215) 597- 1158.

A Prime Place for Birds and People

Renowned birding area receives LWCF assistance



Photo courtesy Roy Cortez

Cape May Co., NJ (August 11, 2005) With \$1,187,500 in Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance, the State of New Jersey will be adding 31.5 acres to the Higbee Beach State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Cape May County. This additional acreage will continue to provide prime birding opportunities to enthusiasts and avian researchers, as well as maintain critical habitat for migrating songbirds and raptors. Higbee Beach is one of the most renowned birding areas in the world. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded in southern Cape May, with more than 200 species seen in a single day. The region is clearly an ecosystem of global significance in terms of protecting biodiversity. Higbee Beach WMA's 1,035 acres comprise diverse beach and woodland ecosystem that provides extensive public recreational access for birding, walking, fishing, and beach use. For more information, please contact Roy Cortez, New Jersey project officer, at roy_cortez@nps.gov or (215) 597- 5134.

Habitat Authority Opens New Gateway to Residents of Los Angeles County

6- mile trail system is made more accessible from the San Gabriel Valley



Hacienda Heights, CA (September 22, 2005) The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority unveiled a new trailhead to facilitate public access to 225 acres of property managed on behalf of the landowner, L.A. County Sanitation Districts. The "Hacienda Hills" open space reserve was set aside as mitigation lands after expansion of a nearby landfill, the county's largest. Visitors will be able to enjoy up to six miles of trails available for hiking, cycling, or other non-motorized recreational uses. The trailhead also provides access to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Recreation Route. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program supported this project by facilitating a community trail design workshop with a project partner, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. RTCA also conducted a preliminary trails assessment with the Habitat Authority and developed a trail exhibit for visitor information. For more information, please contact Jim Donovan, community planner, at jim_donovan@nps.gov, or (323)441- 2117.



Photos courtesy Amy Henderson

Surplus Air Force Parcels Added to City Recreation and Park Land

Community obtains critical in holdings at popular golf course to expand their park

Myrtle Beach, SC (September 6, 2005) The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred at no cost two parcels (18.33 acres) of vacant land within the city-owned Whispering Pines Golf Course to the City of Myrtle Beach for public park and recreation use.

Valued at just under \$100,000, these parcels are the remaining portions of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base which the City requested for public park and recreation use.

In 2001, the Federal Lands to Parks Program conveyed a major portion (292.44 acres) of this abandoned Air Force Base to the City for the Whispering Pines Golf Course, ballfields, recreation centers, walking trails, a lake, and open space. Currently, the City is spending \$900,000 to upgrade the former Base Recreation Center with new facilities and work spaces, all of which meet ADA standards. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff negotiated the transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks program manager, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.



Photo courtesy Bill Huie

West Branch Susquehanna Declared “Pennsylvania River of the Year”

Newest section of water trail dedicated

Central PA (June 2005) At a ceremony in June, Secretary DeBeradinis of PA Department of Conservation and Recreation declared the West Branch Susquehanna the 2005 Pennsylvania River of the Year, a recognition given to one river in the state highlighting significant conservation accomplishments associated with the river. During the ceremony, the newest section of the Susquehanna River Water Trail was dedicated: a 225 mile stretch from Cherry Tree to Northumberland, PA. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program has been working with the West Branch Susquehanna Water Trail Committee to produce the water trail map and guide, in partnership with Lumber Heritage Region, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and with funding from the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program and NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. For more information, please contact David Lange at david_a_lange@nps.gov or (215) 597- 6477.

Land Protection In The New Jersey Highlands Region

A diverse ecosystem acquired by a diverse team

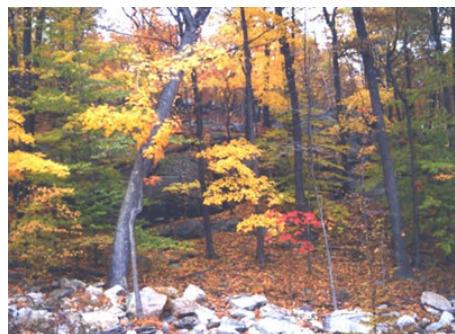


Photo courtesy Roy Cortez

Morris Co., NJ (August 11, 2005) Approximately 1,252 mountainous, forested, and wetland acres were acquired in the Highlands Preservation Area in northern New Jersey with \$3.5 million in assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Highlands region has been the focus of preservation efforts by federal, state, local governments, conservation organizations, and the public for several decades. Acquisition of this land, facilitated by \$3.5 million in matching funds, was a cooperative project among the State, Morris County, Trust for Public Lands and the National Park Service, and is reflective of other land preservation projects in the Highlands. The area will be managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry and will provide public open space for habitat protection and recreational use. For more information, please contact Roy Cortez, New Jersey project officer, at roy_cortez@nps.gov or (215) 597- 5134.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project. This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected; our staff would be pleased to assist your editor in adapting any of these stories for your publication. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail sally_grate@nps.gov